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MADRAS

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AT Madras, India, 470 representatives of the Christian Church in 64 nations gathered in December, 1938 to help create a new sense of world-wide Christian community and to discover the directions in which the world mission needs to go. In Jerusalem in 1928 the challenge to such a fellowship was recognized as the new secularism, or flight from religion. At Madras it was seen as the new paganism. Nationalism, communism, scientific skepticism, often decreed by government, demand a new-style religious loyalty incompatible with Christian faith.

The Church as a whole faced that challenge at Madras. For the first time in any world gathering the appointed representatives of the so-called "younger" churches outnumbered those from the "older" churches. Together they turned a corner and passed from the old conception of "foreign" missions to that of a world undertaking in partnership, with equality of initiative and spiritual insight, and a disparity only in numbers and money.

Madras was a working conference, with each delegate sitting in two of the sixteen main sections and participating in the formulation of reports and findings. The statements herein are from these group reports but they are not presented as a complete message. These are some of the "arrows" by which Madras points the way to the world enterprise which the Church Universal faces in the period ahead.



The Gospel We Proclaim

The Christian Church is called today to live, and to give life, in a world shaken to its foundations. Mankind's great need is for a true and living faith. The heart of the gospel is, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the gospel we proclaim. Christianity comes to the world both as a Message and as a Movement. The Church is summoned to become in itself the actualization among men of its own mes-

sage. We have discovered afresh that the unity of the body of Christ is not merely an aspiration but also a fact. We are resolved to become more fully one in our life and work and to join in united action for the reconciliation of humanity. Christ lifted up draws all men unto Him.



A New Fellowship

We live in perilous days and the Church cannot stand still. It dare not retreat, yet advance is only possible as the whole Church unites in a new Fellowship of the Spirit to evangelize the world. This is the task of the whole Church for the whole world. Churches as well as individuals are summoned to die to themselves and to their particular interests that the world may be saved. Evangelism is to be regarded as the means of bringing man into fellowship with God. The task must be undertaken by a partnership of the younger and the older churches, by pooling of all resources and by cooperation of all Christians.



Called to Courageous Advance

The Church is called to courageous advance and to wise and fearless witness. We need not to knock at closed doors but to enter open ones and to share with responsive peoples the faith and fellowship by which we live. Three decades of seemingly unproductive work on Lake Toba in Sumatra were rewarded one day last year when the chief priest of a group came to the missionary saying, "For more than thirty years I have rejected the Lord but now I feel I can no longer resist. We will become Christians." Immediately 300 villagers who had been held back through fear of the chief priest declared that they wished to be baptized. On December twenty-fifth these young Christians celebrated their first Christmas together.

The corporate witness of the Church is a powerful factor in determining the measure of response men make to the message of the gospel. Therefore churches and missions should view their total evangelistic task as a joint responsibility and should expend in interdenominational cooperation a far larger proportion of their efforts to that end.



The Great Unoccupied Field

We must work out under divine guidance more Christian social and economic techniques and make a direct attack on such outstanding evils as all forms of exploitation; the accumulation and concentration of wealth in the hands of a few; panic; depression; unemployment; war. In the spirit of the Master, Christians must try to lift their fellowmen out of unbearable conditions. The interest of the Church in this area may become an effective method of dedicating and redirecting the mind of the Church. The Church should provide an adequate service program which will challenge the educated youth to active and sacrificial participation.



Colleagues of National Leaders

The younger churches, confronting unprecedented opportunities, urgently call for reinforcements—an increased number of missionaries from overseas. These should come as colleagues of the leaders and servants of the churches. Their selection, training and direction must increasingly be a joint responsibility which will involve closer cooperation between sending and receiving churches.



International Cooperation

No nation may definitely pursue its own interests at the expense of its neighbors. More equitable access to natural resources and markets, a fairer distribution of wealth within nations, and economic cooperation on the international scale are essential. While the Christian Church is not called upon to determine the purely technical aspects of government, Christians should commit themselves to the promotion of an effective system of international organization. Such a system is necessary to provide peaceful and legal means for effecting political and economic changes, and to coordinate national policies to meet economic and social problems.

The very difficulties of maintaining a Christian spirit and an ecumenical fellowship in time of war emphasize the need for constructive effort in time of peace. The Church should seek to maintain the right to learn and spread the truth in matters of international concern. Controversial questions should be faced cooperatively and courageously.



Cooperation and Church Union

Advance in the future depends on cooperation. Our outward divisions are invalidating our message of the love of God as the great reconciling force in a world that desperately needs it. Many kinds of Christian service can be undertaken and successfully carried through only in cooperation. The continuance and extension of cooperation is greatly needed in the fields of religious education, the production and distribution of Christian literature, social service, evangelism, church discipline, and joint planning for perfecting work in any area. Here is a challenge to the older and younger churches to get together in order to avoid cumbersome and wasteful machinery on the field and to the older churches to unite for similar purposes at home.

The representatives of the younger churches presented a strong statement urging church union and calling for the help of the older churches in bringing it about.



Jesus' Answer to the World's Ills

The Kingdom of God was Jesus' answer to the world's ills. It is within as well as beyond history—not easily achieved by mere improvement. It is nevertheless a growth and a final consummation by God. We work for both individual and social change to realize this Kingdom. Change the individuals and you

do not of necessity change the social order unless you organize the changed individuals into collective action for a wide-scale frontal attack upon corporate evils. A new richness of life is being found in various experiments in cooperative living. Some Christians are asserting their purpose to provide a complete economy of life compatible with the Christian faith. The most forthright expression of this is in the Christian cooperative movement in Japan.

Many found at Madras a new inspiration in the actual fellowship made possible by the interchange in the sessions and in private conversations. The fact that all worked together—the body of Christ, many members of that body from varying races and nations—was the supremely memorable and life-changing fact. Christian fellowship has actually come into being and now moves forward in the unity and solidarity it experiences in Jesus Christ.



Quotations

We ask each Christian to repeat daily, "I am a baptized Christian. Woe is me if I preach not the gospel."—BISHOP OF DORNAKAL.

I have often said to my friends, "What you propose is hopeless. We will do it."—M. SEARLE BATES.

If they dared to trust the larger nations for justice and fair play, the smaller nations would all like to have their freedom.—T. Z. KOO.

We have accustomed ourselves to a religion without decision. Decision is necessary for significance.—DOUGLAS HORTON.

The heathen gods are again abroad in the world. No church can survive unless in the last resort it is prepared to suffer persecution.—BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

To get a triumphant unity is going to be a sacrificial task.—JOHN R. MOTT.

The official report of the Madras Meeting (about 175 pages) containing all of the statements and resolutions adopted, under the title *The World Mission of the Church*, is now available at the very low price of 50c. The complete report in seven volumes will be published September 1. Special prices are offered to advance subscribers. Address inquiries to International Missionary Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Studies of the Findings and Recommendations of the Madras Meeting, entitled *The Church Builds for Tomorrow*, for use by ministers and other leaders, have been prepared by Leslie B. Moss, Secretary of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. This booklet of 32 pages is presented in the hope that it will stimulate consideration from the pulpit, in church meetings, and in discussion groups of the great issues facing at Madras. With exception of the preface and where otherwise indicated the statements therein are verbatim quotations from the Madras report. 25c a copy. Quantity prices will be sent upon inquiry addressed to

FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Printed in U. S. A.